

# Nyaka Notes

A Project of STSAD, Inc. / [www.nyakaschool.org](http://www.nyakaschool.org) (517) 402 - 2787

*Nyaka's Mission - "To provide quality, free education and extracurricular activities, both formal and informal, to children who have been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS as a means to counteract pervasive hunger, poverty and systemic deprivation"*

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#### Special Interest Articles:

- The Nyaka Corner
- Nyaka School Report
- Outreach Partner Spotlight
- When Actions are Always Called For- Part 2

This year the Stephen Lewis Foundation whose mission among others is *to assist orphans and other AIDS-affected children, in every possible way, from the payment of school fees to the provision of food* provided funds for educational materials, health education and Nyaka Anti-AIDS Club support through their HIV/AIDS awareness program.

[www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)

**For more information contact us at:**

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## The Nyaka Corner - Twesigye J. Kaguri

To all victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our thoughts and prayers are with you. August and September were back-to-school days for millions of children in the US. At Nyaka, students took two weeks off from school and headed back to school in September with smiles and few worries about the next three months because you have been there for them. However, many Nyaka students smile only when they are at school during the day because at night they face sadness about their dads and moms who left them at a tender age. We, the Nyaka Family, would like to thank all of you who have helped in any way and those who continue to support Nyaka kids and the community. Your encouraging notes also boost our spirits and your prayers are appreciated. In July, I sent brief updates by e-mail to a number of our supporters. I also mailed a few copies of the same update to few supporters who I know don't use e-mail. However, there are more than 300 committed individuals raising awareness, saving lives and inspiring others to make a real difference in the lives of orphaned children in Nyakagyezi village of Uganda. Together, we have shown that ordinary people can become extraordinary citizens by stepping out of our comfort zone and taking action to save a child from chronic poverty and arming them with an asset of education in a loving and caring manner. So for all of you who never saw the July updates, here I recount one of the recent marvels that happened on Nyaka grounds.

#### Delivery on Nyaka grounds

Recently, two emergency cases of expectant mothers and their newborn babies were impacted directly by Nyaka.

Traditional midwives handle most delivery cases in this village since the hospital is far away. (Note: My mother used to deliver babies before she turned 70). At Nyaka, we have a nurse that has been visiting twice a week and also started visiting Nyaka students' home in June. Nurse Gloria, as the kids call her, is not trained as a midwife, but when duty calls...One mother had delivered her infant at home, yet the placenta had refused to come out for two days. This was becoming a difficult case. After word passed that Gloria was at Nyaka that morning, the mother was rushed to the school to be attended to by Nurse Gloria. After 6 hours with much care and experience, Nurse Gloria delivered the placenta and all were grateful for the presence and timely participation of Nyaka.

As you may have guessed there is no media to cover these stories, but word of mouth travels faster in this area than your daily paper. In the past month, a number of pregnant women have been lining up at Nyaka School to be helped. "Now I am confused, while I am attending to children, women are giving birth on Nyaka grounds while waiting on my help" says Gloria. One of the babies she delivered last month was named Bethel because all the mother could see while delivering was a class name BETHEL. Afterwards she said, "I want those words to be my child's name so we can forever know where he was born." Our completed class blocks were named Genesis, Mariza (Martha) and Bethel.

*We don't have facilities or money to run a clinic, but we are very happy that the services at Nyaka have had a positive impact on the larger Nyakagyezi community.*

## *Nyaka School Report: Rwabona Milton, Local Project Coordinator*

### **Introduction**

As the month of August came to an end, it was not just the end of the month at Nyaka, but the school ended its second term of the year. During the month, the volume of activities continued to grow from providing primary education to include Anti-AIDS Club presentations, gardening, nurse home visits and basic healthcare education, and clean water for the community through the gravity water system being constructed. These related activities are in line with the Nyaka vision and mission.

### **School children**

The students successfully sat for their end-of-term exams in accordance with the national education curriculum. There are currently 30 pupils in primary level one, 32 in primary level two, 28 in primary level three, and 26 in primary level four. The total number of children who sat for their end-of-term exam on the 24th August 2005 was 118. The active participation of the children in extracurricular activities has helped them not only develop in academics, but also in their day-to-day life skills.

The school choir, the Nyaka Anti-AIDS Club, is also doing well. The choirmaster informed me that he had already confirmed programs for visiting more public gatherings, including Independence Day celebrations on October 9th and visits to more local schools to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. The children and their teachers are all grateful for all of the school materials that have been provided as well. Now the school has the largest number of textbooks among local schools, which is a huge improvement. This number provides a textbook in each subject for at least every two students.

### **Other programs at Nyaka**

In addition to the normal delivery of academics, Nyaka is planning to expand to include income-generating activities ranging from microfinance to adult education courses to provide long-term financial support for the school. The water project is progressing well as the trench/waterline has already reached the school. Engineer Dennis is determined to make sure there is water flowing in this community by October. The community and students at Nyaka highly appreciate this project. Basic healthcare by Nurse Gloria continues to help many students and some community members. She visits the homes of students and their foster parents to teach them basic hygiene and sanitation. The biggest problem affecting the health and school attendance of students continues to be Malaria. Lunch is still provided to the two afternoon classes and teachers. The largest number of students, and arguably the most vulnerable students, are in the morning classes, so we would highly appreciate if they could also get a mid-morning snack to sustain them on their long walk home after school.

### **Conclusion**

During the month of August, the organization has grown by leaps and bounds in terms of volume of work handled and the geographical reach of activities. At this juncture, gratitude goes to the board of directors and development partners who supported the school in various ways during the month. Also, gratitude goes to all members of the Nyaka staff, teachers and volunteers who support the school in promoting the well being of the children and enhancing the Nyaka motto and the vision.

### ***Picture Gallery - 2005***

*(For more pictures check out the galleries at [www.nyakaschool.org](http://www.nyakaschool.org))*



## Outreach Partner Spotlight - My Brother's Keeper by Twana Nuniss

Hello, I am the Outreach Minister at Led by the Spirit of God Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. The name of our outreach team is My Brother's Keeper. We believe that each of us has a responsibility to not only pray, but to actively assist in the care of those in need. Led by the Spirit is a church that believes all things are possible in Christ Jesus, but we also know that faith without works is dead. Therefore, the outreach team has begun to sow seeds into the Nyaka Ministry, in addition to the quarterly offering that our church raises for the school.

It all began after Brother Jackson came and spoke at our church earlier this year. His message was very touching and heartfelt as we heard him share about the Nyaka School and the amount of money it would take to send a child to school for a month. The amount was what many of us spend on junk food in a week. That Wednesday, I spoke to the youth about it and we agreed to give up one thing a week and sow it into the Nyaka Ministry. The children responded and we sent our first team offering in August. The children are "cheerful givers" and we feel honored to be a part of such a wonderful project. Now we are not only saying we are our brother's keeper, we are "being" our brother's keeper.

God bless Brother Jackson, his staff and the teachers for catching the vision and for all of their hard work; God bless every youth that is a part of the Nyaka School; and God bless all those who are truly being their brother's keeper through their generous donations. Whoever does for the least of God's children, has done so unto **Him** and what has been done in secret, God will reward openly.

*Sincerely, Twana Nuniss*

## When Actions Are Always Called For – Part Two

*By Sam Carpenter, Nyaka Ambassador*

When Jackson asked me to write an article for this issue of the newsletter, I could not help but feel a surge of love and compassion for the children at Nyaka and especially for those other children who need the help of Nyaka. To follow up on Snea Thinsan's article in the April newsletter my theme is also "When Actions Are Always Called For." Snea's was a wonderful and powerful message that strikes to the heart of the issue of helping others in need. Please go back to this article as a primer for what I will now propose as one way in which you can not only do something to help the children who are already enrolled in Nyaka, but also bring hope for at least some of the thousands of other children who desperately need to be there.

I had the good fortune of meeting Jackson several years ago and as many of you can relate to I fell under the spell of his genuine love for others. We stayed in touch and of course, the "kids" as he always refers to them were usually part of our conversations. Feeling the need to do something for the kids, I approached the pastor, Fr. Tim Farrell, at my church with the idea of having Jackson speak to the congregation about his work for the Nyaka School. He was open to the idea and Jackson made his first visit here in Farmington, New Mexico in May of 2003. His message of "Serving God's people beyond our borders" was powerful and touching to the parishioners. In the short 5 minutes or so that he spoke at each service, there was an incredible outpouring of love and support for the kids at Nyaka.

Jackson returned here in May of 2004, this time with his wonderful family, Beronda and Nicolas. He was once again warmly received and there was another generous response to the Nyaka School. Jackson was unable to return in person this year, but we now have a designated, annual collection for the Nyaka AIDS Orphan School every May. Over \$10,000 has been raised for the kids to date.

My story of involvement with Jackson and his work is nothing special and certainly not beyond the realm of possibility for many of you who are reading this article. I acknowledge that many of you are in fact doing so much more than this for the kids and you have my admiration. I am only telling you how God has led us to help the kids here in my little home town and propose that many of you could do the same through your church, civic organizations or other groups in your communities.

You may also consider helping to promote Nyaka by urging Oprah to have Jackson on her show. His love for people and especially for the kids at Nyaka is contagious and it would be incredible exposure for the kids. I have been sending emails to Oprah's web site on a regular basis for several months now, but have had no response. Perhaps a mass emailing might break through the barriers. Go to [www.Oprah.com](http://www.Oprah.com) and open the menu at the top of the web page "Inside Oprah.com". Click on the "email" option and on the page that opens look for the link to send in show ideas. Opening this link will bring up a form to fill out.

Feel free to contact me at [emosam@hotmail.com](mailto:emosam@hotmail.com) or Jackson if you have any questions about this idea. May God bless all of you and especially the kids at Nyaka. In them we have formed a common bond of Christian love. Now let us take action as Snea puts it "When Actions Are Always Called For."

*Sam Carpenter*  
Farmington, New Mexico

## Nyaka AIDS Orphan School

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We depend upon the kindness and support of individuals like you. Please send tax-deductible donations to Nyaka School (STSAD) at P.O. Box 339 East Lansing, MI 48826

*For our children's sake*

*We're on the Web!*

See us at  
[www.nyakaschool.org](http://www.nyakaschool.org)

## *The Gratitude Journal*

By Beronda Montgomery

Gratitude is often sparse in times of plenty, yet comes quickly when help is extended in the midst of trouble or tragedy. As we have watched the trauma of life after a devastating hurricane unfold in the Gulf Coast region of the United States, we have heard and seen countless expressions of gratitude for the help that was and continues to be extended to hurricane victims. These expressions in the midst of trouble led me to reflect on the developments at Nyaka. Though the impact of Nyaka has lessened the trouble and trauma in the lives of many orphans in Nyakagezi village, their gratitude continues to grow by leaps and bounds. They are excited and overwhelmed by the new possibilities that their lives hold due to the quality education and care they are receiving at Nyaka. It is a joy to behold lives changed by the kindness and generosity of others, and for this reason and so many others I extend sincere gratitude to all of Nyaka's supporters. On behalf of the students and teachers, the Board of Directors and the entire Nyaka Family,

***WE THANK YOU!!!***

*Thank you to all of you who made memorial donations in remembrance of loved ones. Their memories will live on in the lives of the many children who are being educated at Nyaka.*

### **Recent and Upcoming Events Calendar**

- May 31** – Texarkana and Nashville, Arkansas Presentations
- August 6** – Big Rapids and Reed City, MI SDA Church Presentations
- September 18** – Uganda Social Concerns Kiosk, Fremont Food Resource Bank Expo, MI
- October 7-14** – Site visit and teacher training and staff development at the Nyaka School
- October 27**– Bloomington North Rotary Club
- November 12 (Evening)** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Friends of Nyaka Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction, Bloomington, IN
- December 1** – World AIDS Days

Note: If you'd like to arrange a presentation by a Nyaka Ambassador or would like more information about Nyaka please contact Jackson at [tjk@nyakaschool.org](mailto:tjk@nyakaschool.org) or (517) 402-2787 for more details.

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